REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 31, 34-39 and 43-47 have been amended. Support for the replacement of "output control data" with "output control parameters", as required by claims 31, 34-39 and 43-47 is supported at least by Figure 3 and the related description at pages 17-20 of the present specification. Changes made to the application by the current amendment are shown in the attached **Version With Markings To Show Changes Made**.

The Abstract of the Disclosure has been amended so as not to exceed 150 words in length. Withdrawal of the objection to the abstract is respectfully requested.

Claim 47 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 47 has been amended to address this formality. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 31, 32, 34, 39, 40, 41 and 43 were rejected 35 under U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nagashima, US 4,719,516. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Nagashima fails to disclose a removable storage medium that stores image data and output control parameters that control printing of the image data, as required by claims 31 and 39. Nagashima discloses image data that is supplied from a reader and not a removable storage medium. Therefore, Nagashima fails to disclose every limitation of claims 31 and 39, and the claims that depend from them.

Furthermore, Applicant submits that the output control parameters required by claims 31 and 39 is different from a "executable program." Output control parameters include information that is independent from the types and manufacturer of a printer. An executable program, on the other hand, is information dependent on a printer type or manufacturer. Therefore, output control parameters are distinct from an executable program.

Claims 32-34, 40, 41 and 43 are allowable for at least the reason they are dependent upon an allowable base claim. Applicant does not concede the correctness of this rejection as it relates to these claims.

Claims 33 and 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagashima in view of Sakata et al., US 5,105,284. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As discussed above, Nagashima fails to disclose every limitation of claims 31 and 39. Sakata fails to remedy the deficiencies of Nagashima as it relates to claims 31 and 39. Therefore, claims 33 and 42 are allowable for at least the reason they are dependent upon an allowable base claim. Applicant does not concede the correctness of this rejection.

Claims 35-38 and 44-47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagashima in view of Itoh, US 5,923,437. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As discussed above, Nagashima fails to disclose storing both image data to be printed and output control parameters in a removable storage medium, as required by claims 35, 37, 44 and 46. Itoh also fails to disclose or suggest storage of image data and output control parameters in a removable storage medium. Therefore, neither Nagashima, Itoh, nor a combination of these references disclose or suggest every limitation of claims 35, 37, 44 and 46 and the claims that depend from them.

Furthermore, Applicant submits that Itoh fails to disclose that a printer stores information of functions, with which the printer is provided, into a removable storage medium. Claims 36, 38, 45 and 47 require a means for storing information of functions of the printing means and sorter into the removable storage medium provided in a printer. Itoh, on the other hand, discloses storing information of functions of the printing means and sorter into an external equipment such as a computer. Therefore, Itoh is further removed from the claimed invention.

In view of the above, Applicants request reconsideration of the application in the form of a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

The abstract has been amended as follows:

A digital copying machine configured for offline print and offline image input. [A digital copying machine comprising an image scanner part for reading an original image to reproduce image data of the original image, a laser printer part for printing an image according to given image data, a removable memory card, and a reader/writer of the memory card is provided.] For offline print, the image data of a document prepared in an external computer and output control data are stored into the memory card. By installing this memory card in the digital copying machine, the digital copying machine prints the image data read out from the memory card offline in a desired output form. For offline image input, read control data obtained by using an image scanner such as a read gradation level, a read size, density, and the degree of edge enhancement is stored in the removable memory card using software executed in an external computer. By installing this storage medium in the digital copying machine and setting an original to be read in the digital copying machine, the original image is read according to the read control data stored in the memory card, and the obtained image data is stored into the memory card.

In the Claims

Claims 31, 34-39 and 43-47 have been amended.

31. (Amended) A printer comprising:

means for printing an image according to image data;

means for retrieving [output control data] output control parameters and image data stored in a removable storage medium when the medium is connected to the means for retrieving;

means for setting an operation condition of said printing means according to the [output control data] output control parameters; and

means for controlling the printing means according to the operation condition so that the printing means can print an image according to the image data[;

wherein data reading from the removable storage medium is enabled and data writing to the medium is disabled when the medium is connected to the printer].

34. (Amended) The printer according to claim 31, further comprising means for erasing the image data and [output control data] output control parameters stored in the removable storage medium, after printing the image data.

35. (Amended) A printer comprising:

means for printing an image according to image data;

means for retrieving [output control data] output control parameters and image data from a removable storage medium when the medium is connected to the means for retrieving;

means for setting an operation condition of the printing means according to the [output control data] output control parameters;

means for controlling the printing means according to the operation condition so that the printing means can print an image according to the image data;

a sorter for sorting printed paper; and

means for controlling the sorter according to [output control data] output control parameters stored in the removable storage medium.

36. (Amended) The printer according to claim 35, further comprising means for storing information of functions of the printing means and sorter into the removable storage medium so that the information can be used by [an] external equipment for generating [output control data] output control parameters.

37. (Amended) A printer comprising:

means for printing an image according to image data;

means for retrieving [output control data] output control parameters and image data from a removable storage medium when the medium is connected to the means for retrieving;

means for setting an operation condition of the printing means according to the [output control data] output control parameters;

means for controlling the printing means according to the operation condition so that the printing means can print an image according to the image data;

a finisher for stapling printed paper; and

means for controlling the finisher according to [output control data] output control parameters stored in the removable storage medium.

38. (Amended) The printer according to claim 37, further comprising means for storing information of functions of the printing means and finisher into the removable storage medium so that the information can be used by [an] external equipment for generating [output control data] output control parameters.

39. (Amended) A method for performing operations on a printer, comprising the steps of:

retrieving [output control data] output control parameters and image data stored in a removable storage medium when the medium is connected to the printer;

setting a printing condition according to the [output control data] output control parameters; and

printing an image on a print medium based on the image data according to the printing condition[;

wherein data reading from the removable storage medium is enabled and data writing to the medium is disabled when the medium is connected to the printer].

43. (Amended) The method of claim 39, further comprising a step of erasing [output control data] output control parameters stored in the removable storage medium, after printing the image data.

44. (Amended) A method for performing operations on a printer, comprising the steps of:

retrieving [output control data] output control parameters and image data from a removable storage medium when the medium is connected to the printer;

setting a printing condition according to the [output control data] output control parameters;

printing an image on a print medium based on the image data according to the printing condition; and

sorting the print medium with a sorter according to the [output control data] output control parameters.

45. (Amended) The method of claim 44, further comprising a step of storing information of functions of the printer and the sorter into the removable storage medium so that the information can be used by external equipment for generating [output control data] output control parameters.

46. (Amended) A method for performing operations on a printer, comprising the steps of:

retrieving [output control data] output control parameters and image data from a removable storage medium when the medium is connected to the printer;

setting a printing condition according to the [output control data] output control parameters;

printing an image on a print medium based on the image data according to the printing condition; and

stapling the print medium with a finisher according to the [output control data] output control parameters.

47. (Amended) The method of claim 46, further comprising a step of storing information of functions of the printer and the finisher into [a] the removable storage medium so that the information can be used by external equipment for generating [output control data] output control parameters.